

Brain not examined—nor posterior part of mouth and fauces. Larynx perfectly healthy.

The mucous membrane of the trachea and of the bronchial tubes, as far as their fourth or fifth ramifications, was reddened, and, in the bronchial tubes, slightly thickened, but in both entirely free from false membrane, or viscid secretion of any kind. The inferior portion of both lungs soft and crepitant, but containing abundance of a colourless serous fluid.

The lower lobe of the left lung was of a vivid red colour; contained a very small quantity of air, and but little serum; consistence of its tissue not materially diminished. The right lung was of the same bright red colour in its middle and lower lobes; the consistence of both these lobes was diminished, particularly of the middle; and the greater portion of this lobe sank when placed in water of medium temperature. There was no appearance of pus, nor of lobular discoloration or induration. No adhesion between the opposed pleural surfaces of either side; nor any effusion of lymph or serum in either pleural cavity. Both lungs were expanded. No tubercles in the lungs, or in the bronchial tubes.

The heart was of a healthy appearance; foramen ovale open.

The abdominal viscera were all carefully examined, but no lesion of any kind could be detected.

Within a week after, the surviving child was taken with symptoms precisely similar. Guided by the light derived from the examination of the preceding case, attention was now turned to the chest. With great difficulty, owing to the extreme restlessness of the infant, we were enabled to detect dullness, upon percussion, of the posterior part of the lower lobe of the right lung, with slight mucous rattle. The quantity of blood discharged, though less than that in the preceding case, was considerable; and in this instance Dr. M. saw it in the mouth of the child, frothy, and mixed with mucus. Small cups were applied to the back of the child, and two ounces of blood taken. Calomel, in minute doses, was given to act upon the diseased secretions of the liver; and, in a day or two, our patient was convalescent.

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ART. XVIII.—*A Synopsis of the Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatment of the more common and important Diseases of the Skin*: with sixty coloured figures. By N. WORCESTER, M. D., Professor of Physical Diagnosis, and General Pathology in the Medical School of Cleveland, &c. 8vo. pp. 292. Philadelphia, Boston, and Cincinnati, 1845.

IT is surprising how little attention has heretofore been paid by American physicians to the study of the diseases of the skin, and how few among them are acquainted with their pathology, their diagnostic characters, and their proper treatment. Whether this has arisen from the less frequent occurrence of cutaneous affections in this country than in many portions of Europe, or from the obscurity with which they have been enveloped by the difference in the nomenclature and classification adopted by the several authors who have written professedly upon them, it is difficult to determine; perhaps both these causes have tended to produce that indifference with which almost every thing in relation to these diseases has been treated by the medical profession in the United States.

When we consider the variety and importance of the cutaneous diseases—their generally disgusting appearance—the very troublesome and often distressing symptoms by which they are attended, and the tendency in many of them, when neglected or mismanaged in their earlier stages, to produce changes in the organization of the skin and subcutaneous tissues, which render their removal extremely difficult, or even impossible, by any plan of treatment, we cannot but regret the small amount of attention that has been directed by our physicians to their investigation.

“They can scarcely be said,” as Dr. Worcester correctly remarks, “to form a part of the professional education of students, in the annual courses of medical lectures of this country,” while the want of success exhibited by the regular practitioners generally, in their management, has too often consigned the subjects of

them to the care of the designing empiric, to whom they afford a fruitful source of emolument.

The work before us is, we believe, the first American treatise that has been published upon the diseases of the skin; and we trust that before long it may be followed by others of a more strictly original character; in which the authors instead of repeating with servile accuracy the theories, classification, and therapeutical directions of the European dermatologists, shall present us with the results of their own observations and experience.

Dr. Worcester's only aim in the preparation of the present synopsis, has been to present to the profession "a concise and accurate treatise on the diseases of the skin"—"that can be afforded at such a price as to be within the reach of all"—and, "if he has succeeded in giving a correct description of the more common forms of these affections, illustrated by well executed plates, with the most appropriate treatment" for each, his object, he assures us, has been accomplished; utility and not originality having been his design.

We are persuaded that the work will be found a convenient manual for the use of such as desire to enter upon the study of "the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the more common and important diseases of the skin." The author appears to have consulted with considerable care the best and most authoritative writers on the subjects of which he treats; and from the materials thus collected has formed a valuable synopsis—which, though too concise to satisfy those who desire to make themselves perfect masters of dermatology, is sufficiently minute as an introduction to its study.

The figures are copied from Willan, Bateman, Thompson, Rayer, Alibert, Wilson, Erichsen, Cazenave and Ricord; their execution, however, cannot be very highly praised, and though they may afford some idea of the affections they are intended to represent, it will be, we must confess, at best but a very imperfect one.

Dr. Worcester has followed the classification of Willan, so far, at least, as relates to the arranging into orders of the different cutaneous affections, and the system upon which this arrangement is based; he has, however, for the purpose of facilitating diagnosis, divided the several orders of Willan into *two groups or divisions*, the dry, and the moist. The first group includes the vesiculæ, bulleæ, and pustulæ, the second, the exanthemata, papulæ, squamæ, tuberculæ, and maculæ. This, if the classification of Willan is adopted, constitutes a very useful modification of it; but, we believe, that a classification somewhat similar to that adopted in the elaborate work of Wilson, in which it is attempted to arrange the diseases of the skin according to their physiological and anatomical characters, will be found the most simple and easy of application, and the one best adapted to lead to a correct knowledge of the character of these diseases, their prevention, and cure.

In the arrangement alluded to, "the dermis and its appendages, its glands and follicles, are considered to be the seat of all the changes which characterize cutaneous pathology;" consequently, cutaneous affections are divided by him in four groups or divisions, namely: those of the dermis, those of the sudoriparous glands, those of the sebaceous glands, and those of the hair and hair follicles.

The synopsis before us does not embrace the eruptive fevers—from the fact, as the author remarks, "that the eruption in these affections is only a symptom of the general disease, that a minute account of them is contained in most of the treatises on the theory and practice of medicine, and that the principles of diagnosis are comparatively well understood."

We can with great confidence recommend the work of Dr. Worcester to the notice of our readers—who, while they cannot fail to receive instruction from its pages, will feel an additional pleasure in consulting it from the very beautiful manner in which it is printed. It speaks well for the taste and mechanical skill of the printers of Cincinnati.

D. F. C.